

## **Region 3 GPRA Baseline RCRA Corrective Action Facility**

# **Du Pont - Towanda**

**New James Street and Paterson Boulevard**

**Towanda, PA 18848-9784**

**Congressional District 10**

**EPA ID #: PAD003038056**

**Last Updated 12/30/2002**

## **Current Progress at the Site**

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The Du Pont- Towanda facility is currently under a RCRA permit for the storage of hazardous waste and a Corrective Action Permit to investigate and define contamination.

On the basis of this investigation Du Pont has found groundwater contamination in 2 areas. The groundwater in both area is closely monitored and is contained on-site. The groundwater does not pose a risk because the groundwater is not used for drinking water and geologic conditions are preventing the plume from expanding. There is also evidence that the plume is degrading due to the action of naturally occurring microbes. EPA is in the process of using the available information to modify the existing permit and propose a Final Remedy for the facility.

## **Site Description**

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The Du Pont facility in Towanda is located on New James Street and Patterson Boulevard in Towanda, PA and borders Sugar Creek. This Facility has been operation since the early 1940s and is a manufacturing site for X-ray screens, coated films, and wet -processing solutions.

In these processes Du Pont used various chlorinated solvents and methylene chloride. These substances have been found in the groundwater at two locations at the Facility. In one area the groundwater is contaminated with methylene chloride, possible from a storage tank which has been removed. In 1994, Du Pont found methylene chloride contaminated groundwater seeping into Sugar Creek and quickly built a system to catch it. From 1995 to 1996 , Du Pont recovered 190 pounds of methylene chloride by pumping contaminated groundwater from this area and sending it to the on-site methylene chloride recovery system. In late 1996, Du Pont stopped using methylene chloride in their manufacturing processes. Since that time, Du Pont shut down the recovery system and is monitoring the contaminated groundwater. The contamination remains on-site and is not spreading.

In the second location, Du Pont has been and continues to monitor groundwater contaminated with chlorinated solvents and their breakdown products. The presence of breakdown products shows that natural processes are degrading the solvents. In neither case, is the contamination moving off-

site nor posing a threat to human health or the environment.

## **Site Responsibility**

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RCRA Corrective Action activities at the Du Pont - Towanda facility are being conducted under the direction of EPA with assistance from PADEP.

## **Contaminants**

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The main contaminants in the groundwater are methylene chloride and other chlorinated solvents.

## **Community Interaction**

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EPA is working on a Statement of Basis and Proposed Permit Modification for a Final Remedy. When these documents are ready, EPA will solicit comments from the public on the proposed final remedy.

## **Government Contacts**

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For more information about EPA's corrective action webpage, including Environmental Indicators, please visit our site at: [www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm](http://www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm)

## **Facility Contact**

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